

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim amendments/Status

In this submission, independent claims 3, 5, 10 and 12 have been amended to more clearly define the subject matter for which patent protection is sought.

Claims 2-6 and 8-13 remain pending in the application.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The rejections of claims:

1) claims 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuda (JP 2003-302116, machine translation) in view of La Fleur (3,355,903); and

2) claims 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuda in view of Ishii (JP 2003-083634) further in view of L Fleur; are, to the degree that they are still relevant to the claims as amended, respectfully traversed.

It is submitted that there notable differences between JP'116 and the claimed subject matter which cannot be cured with the teachings of the secondary references. The oven in the claimed invention is not heated via a heat exchanger but is directly fed hot air from the compressor. These differences has been clarified in the above claims and it is submitted that there is now a patentable distinction. That is to say JP'116 heats the oven or the like device, using an open loop wherein air is blown through a heat exchanger and into the oven/arrangement. As noted the above, with the claimed invention there is no heat exchanger and the heating is directly implemented by flowing air through the heating unit and then passing it on toward the expansion turbine.

Further, in connection with at least claim 1, with the open loop heating of the oven in JP'116 it would be impossible to meet the requirements of the last paragraph of this claim which calls for "a heat recovery unit which recovers heat of said air refrigerant outputted from said heating unit and heats said air refrigerant flowing between said compressing mechanism and said heating unit." The air exhausting from the over in JP'116 must be, in light of any disclosure to the contrary assumed to be vented to the ambient atmosphere.

As will be noted, to clarify the claimed subject matter the terms first and second "objects" have been changed to "chambers" and the third to "device." While this is a little more specific in terms of structure, it obviates the possibility that the term "object" may be misinterpreted as being a loaf of bread which is being baked or a ham which is being chilled.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 11-0219 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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